

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE
WORK SESSION HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021, AT 9:00 A.M. THE
MEETING WAS HELD ELECTRONICALLY, WITHOUT A PHYSICAL LOCATION
DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AS AUTHORIZED BY THE
GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER DATED 18 MARCH 2020**

Members Present: Mayor Mike Peterson, Council Member Scott Bracken and Council Member Christine Mikell

Staff Present: City Manager Tim Tingey, City Attorney Shane Topham, Records Culture and Human Resources Director Paula Melgar, Community/Economic Development Director Michael Johnson, Finance and Administrative Services Director S. Scott Jorges

Excused: Council Member Douglas Petersen and Council Member Tali Bruce

1. Welcome and Determination – Mayor Peterson.

Mayor Mike Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed those listening. He read in its entirety the declaration giving the Council the authority to hold the meeting via Zoom, pursuant to Utah Code Annotated §52-4-207(4).

2. Legislative Update and Discussion with City Lobbyists Mr. Greg Curtis, Mr. Brian Allen, and Ms. Chantel Nate.

City Lobbyist, Brian Allen presented a Legislative Update and reported that they have been actively engaged in the Billboard Bill. Both Senators Cullimore and Reibe have been working with Senator Sandal and Mr. Allen believed that if they get a consensus on the Sandal Bill, the second Bill will go away. There remains an issue with on and off-premise signs. The language was being discussed. He explained that if the Bill passes, it will be retroactive and give the cities time to update their sign ordinance to avoid an unintended consequence from previous issues.

The Accessory Dwelling Unit (“ADU”) Bill discussions were ongoing with Representative Ward who was amenable to suggestions. The scope of zoning remained an issue with college towns wanting lighter requirements due to the unique situation they find themselves in. The alternative Bill would completely strip any control from the cities and their regulations.

Mr. Allen described a Bill on rioting that would have created civil liability for the cities if they fail to act appropriately to protect life and property. They were able to work with several Senators on that committee to remove that provision from the Bill and eliminate the liability where one should not exist.

House Bill 95 regarding permits and inspections had made significant strides. Representative Ray made concessions making it more palatable. The issue was that some cities have been slow to approve building permits, which has caused angst among the legislators. Mr. Allen explained the

Bill would create time frames allowing the builder to move forward if the City does not respond in a timely manner.

City Lobbyist, Greg Curtis reported that upcoming budget discussions are taking place and sides are at odds regarding bonding. When their issues are resolved, a determination will be made as to what level of funding goes into infrastructure, particularly trails. Other issues include outdoor recreation, as well as commuter rail double tracking. He expected a compromise to be reached in the near future. Land acquisition issues were discussed. It was confirmed that the City was requesting \$5 million.

Mayor Peterson stated that the City is working openly with Utah Open Lands who is representing the City in some of the discussions. Council Member Mikell emphasized the need to understand the expense associated with the acquisition of open space throughout the City.

City Manager, Tim Tingey emphasized the importance of having a justification element as to why \$5 million is appropriate for the Bonneville Shoreline as it compares to the rest of the State. He believed the regional nature of the Salt Lake Valley and it being one of the most populated urban areas were elements of justification.

Council Member Mikell reported that the Backcountry Alliance Trail User Analysis found that Ferguson Canyon is currently seeing as much traffic as some of the trailheads up Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons and is why it is so valuable to disperse trail users to different areas. Mayor Peterson agreed that the trails have a huge regional impact and was willing to provide data and information that is helpful with respect to Senator Cullimore sharing the City's story with the legislation. They will work to obtain information to present to the Senator and providing additional parameters to the request. The benefits of a match being included were discussed. Council Member Bracken remarked that the regional impact would also include the connection of the two canyons with the addition of the Ferguson Canyon in and out.

Mayor Peterson questioned whether the ADU Bill includes initial latitude to municipalities to define ADU issues such as parking. Mr. Allen explained that the City can require one additional off-street parking spot or, if the garage or other parking is turned into an ADU, garage, or carport, it must be replaced on the property.

A question was raised regarding the status of House Bill 244 pertaining to dedicated money to municipalities. Mr. Curtis confirmed that it has the support and moved out of the House and is currently with the Senate.

3. Adjourn.

MOTION: Council Member Mikell moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bracken. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The Work Session adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Legislative Work Session held Thursday, February 18, 2021.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: March 2, 2021